

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of transdifferentiating a monocytic cell into an endothelial cell, comprising:
providing a monocytic cell; and
artificially increasing the expression of PTN in the monocytic cell such that the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein artificially increasing the expression of PTN in the monocytic cell further comprises:
transducing the monocytic cell with a retrovirus expressing PTN.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the retrovirus is a bicistronic retrovirus.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the monocytic cell is a RAW cell or a THP-1 cell.
5. An endothelial cell, produced by the method, comprising:
providing a monocytic cell; and
artificially increasing the expression of PTN in the monocytic cell such that the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell.
6. The endothelial cell of claim 5, wherein artificially increasing the expression of PTN in the monocytic cell further comprises:
transducing the monocytic cell with a retrovirus expressing PTN.
7. The endothelial cell of claim 6, wherein the retrovirus is a bicistronic retrovirus.
8. The endothelial cell of claim 5, wherein the monocytic cell is a RAW cell or a THP-1 cell.
9. A method of inhibiting neovascularization, comprising:
providing a compound that inhibits the biological activity of pleiotrophin (PTN); and
administering the compound to a mammal in a therapeutically effective quantity such that neovascularization is inhibited.

10. A method of promoting neovascularization, comprising:
 - providing a compound that enhances or promotes the biological activity of pleiotrophin (PTN); and
 - administering the compound to a mammal in a therapeutically effective quantity such that neovascularization is promoted.